

# Biosolids Compost: Information about GroCo

## *Where can I get GroCo?*

GroCo is located at Sawdust Supply  
15 South Spokane Street, Seattle, WA 98134  
Call (206-622-5141) to find out  
other distribution locations near you.  
GroCo comes bagged or in bulk and you  
can pick it up or have it delivered.

## *What is GroCo?*

GroCo is a composted mixture of 3  
parts sawdust to 1 part biosolids. It is  
a safe, effective soil amendment and  
mulch. The King County Wastewater  
Treatment Division provides the  
essential ingredient – biosolids.

## *What are biosolids?*

Biosolids are nutrient-rich organic solids  
that result from treating wastewater. They  
can be beneficially recycled in many ways.

Biosolids are recyclable because they  
contain many plant nutrients (such as  
nitrogen, sulfur, magnesium, phosphorus,  
zinc and potassium) that stimulate  
healthy growth in plants and trees.



GroCo  
consistently  
earns the highest safety  
rating, "Exceptional Quality"  
from the United States  
Environmental Protection Agency  
and meets the Highest Quality  
Standard of the Washington  
Department of  
Ecology.



## *How can I use GroCo?*

*As a soil conditioner:*

- Loosen existing soil; spread GroCo 1 inch to 3 inches deep on the area you will be planting, then till or spade into the soil.
- For individual planting of your shrubs and trees, mix GroCo half-and-half with existing soil.

*As a lawn conditioner:*

- Spread up to 1 inch of GroCo over your lawn in early spring or fall.

## *Container gardens use GroCo too.*

GroCo works in window boxes and potted plants as well as on lawns and gardens. The balanced pH in GroCo releases necessary nutrients for healthy plant growth, and its texture provides the aeration plant roots need. Combine equal parts of GroCo with sandy loam soils for a potted plant or window box mixture.



**King County**

Department of Natural Resources and Parks  
Wastewater Treatment Division

## *GroCo meets the high quality standards for composts.*

Laboratory analyses show that the amount of trace metals in GroCo is extremely low compared to quality limits set by Washington State for composts. Compost that meets these limits may be safely used for all landscaping and home gardening.

## *Pathogens have been destroyed in GroCo.*

Many people ask if GroCo compost has a high level of pathogens – disease-causing organisms. The fact is that composting is a well-accepted and natural method to eliminate pathogens. The composting process kills pathogens with high temperatures over a specified amount of time.

Like other commercial composts, GroCo is produced in compliance with strict state regulations. Each batch of GroCo compost is tested for metals and pathogens to assure the highest quality and safety before sale to the public.

Landscapers like GroCo because it is a consistently high quality compost product.

### **GroCo metals compared to state limits for metals (in parts per million)**

	GroCo	Compost Limits
Arsenic	0.26	20
Cadmium	0.79	10
Copper	143	750
Lead	20	150
Mercury	1	8
Molybdenum	2.3	9
Nickel	11	210
Selenium	0.95	18
Zinc	169	1400

## *For more information*

**King County Biosolids Program:**  
Check our Web site at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/WTD/biosolids/> or call 206-684-1247.

**GroCo:** Call 206-622-5141 to find out the cost and where and how to purchase.

## *What you can do to keep biosolids and wastewater recyclable:*

King County processes our wastewater to produce biosolids, recycled water and energy. Please throw trash, fruit and vegetable stickers, pills etc. in the garbage, not down your sinks, drains or toilet. Check our site at <http://dnr.metrokc.gov/wtd/community/oldstuff.btm> for tips on how to safely dispose of almost everything.

To get this information in alternative formats, call 206-296-8361 or 711 (TTY)

